EPISODE FOUR

THE FORBIDDEN LAND

少年は
BL
[甦れ!!黒歴史RPG]
4

FINGER-WRITING ON HIS PALM
brush ちまちま brush
After discussing it with Nobu-san in writing (?),
we decided to rush and clear the game no matter what,

so now he's all pumped up and excited.
ALL RIGHT!! Come tomorrow, we're gonna breeze right through it!

guuooo ぐおー
My non-sensical visions from the Planet Memories are weighing on my mind.
I'm glad to know he might be the Nobu-san before our bond was cut,
but how he got back to before is a mystery.

My chest is tight with anxiety...

...Nao, my boy...
twitch ピク
Oh, this voice...

I'm not sure if getting out is really the right thing to do
whimper キュウ!
However,
I want to get out of here with Nobu-san.
because I'm scared something bad will happen once we return to reality.

...I can see why yer troubled, my boy.
Yeh want to protect the bearded lad, right?
ふわあ
Fwah

Hn
... Grandpa?

It's not Talisman-sama...
JUMP!
がばっ

He'll be giving it his all for yer sake, too.
Nao, my boy, keep uniting yer strength with his.
There, there
GRANDPAAAA
Yer doing really well.
He's getting the help he needs thanks to yeh.

Hn
It's just a dream, but I'm glad to see you.

Thank you for your insight, Grandpa...

...I will.
That's right...
whine キュー
whine キュー
If we don't clear this, Nobu-san won't get his memories back.
And I'll be stuck as a dog.

BUOH

Special move, TRIPLE SHOT PULVERIZER!!

Here we go.

I... will do my best. For Nobu-san...

※ A LETHAL MOVE THAT DAMAGES 3 WEAK POINTS.

ドカーン BOOOOOM

THE 6TH DUNGEON MINI-BOSS SHOWDOWN ON A PLATEAU

How can a little punk like you use ancient techniques?!

You haven't even been to the Forbidden Land!

A little punk...

I'm a 35-year-old man inside.

Yellin' the special move was mortifying...

Age doesn't matter in games!

You'll pay for this!

All right... here we go.
The 6th Planet Memory.
Um... Go ahead!!
WAN!
ワンッ
bdmp
bdmp
twitch
twitch

YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!
Damn it!
We're at the end of the main story, huh...
When ya skip the side quests and hidden dungeons,
it actually ends too damned fast...
It's a "working adult-friendly" RPG!
WAWAN!
ワワン
FSSHHH

Oh my god, there's so much...
It kinda feels like someone had just moved in, though.
Is this... a garbage dump?

FLASH!

...NOBU-SAN'S MOST PRIZED FIGURE!
...Isn't that...?!

He's even more gloomy!

Even though I qualified as a director...

That job... gave me so much anxiety from the get-go...

...I became a horror game producer when I was 37...

CRITICAL

Nobu-san's...

ACK!

SHATTER

GASP

Eek

aren't his eyes getting more and more dead?!

GRIM

IN HIS LATE 30S

Compared to the start,

IN HIS 20S

...everything points to Nobu-san's death.

Orono Takeshi -Complete Works-

Truly, his work is...

I feel like...

The visions I've had from the Planet Memories...

This item drop.
It ain't somethin' I set up.

But because this Nobu-san has no memories,
I'll heeelp!
Anyway, I'll pick these items up...
I don't know if he's really dead...

Huh?
woon?
...The spec changes so far have been tiny,
but now, there's even a spec change for this.

An item that expands yer synthesis slot? Ain't that TOO convenient?!
...SO MUCH MORE CONVENIENT!
Ah

I ain't familiar with its name or its effects.
It's like things just got...

So how are there changes in this world?
And we couldn't even fix bugs.
Nobu-san has said before that you can't make any changes to the specs while inside the dream.
Come to think of it,
The game world follows the rules on the specs.

Could it be that I can influence this world with my desires *just like that?*

Doesn't that make this an actual dream world?!

I doubt it.

The item max upper limit went up from 99 to 255!

...along with other features I wanted to include...

Scary...

255

The warp feature was added to the save point...

ピロ-ン DING

Select option.

Warp

Save

Load

WARP ?!

The G-Spa I downloaded was the original version.

GranSpiral

PUSH START BUTTON

It didn't have these useful features.

But,

if this is the remake...

カタタ... ktk tk

カタタ... ktk tk

Are you still looking at it?

My proposal...

...Ummm...

Oh, is... is that so?
Yeah.
It's useful for thinking about a lotta stuff.

So now he's using it as a reference
he said, "ya CAN look at it as a wish list, not as a ripoff."
ACTUALLY KEPT IT
Sorry.
for making the "Gran Spiral" remake.
Wuh?

The proposal I submitted for the employment exam...
was rejected by Nobu-san after he assessed it as a "G-Spa ripoff". However,
FAIL
PROPO
Anan Naov

Between all your games, it's the one I love the most...
That's not true!

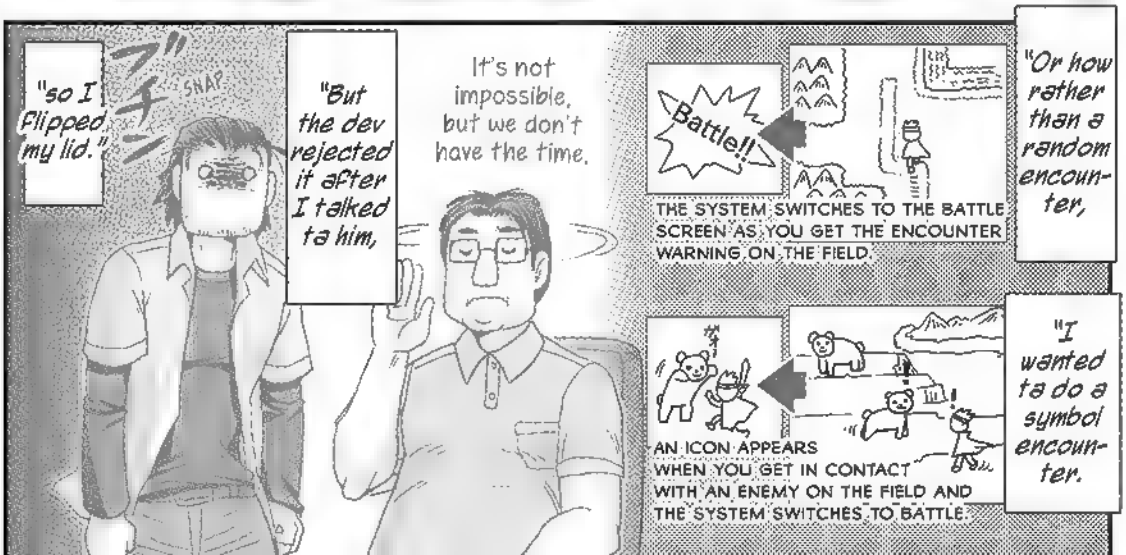
That's I mean
Um
Ah! But I also love your new games...

...I never thought I'd lay my hands on G-Spa again.
Ta me, it ain't nothin' but a shitty game.

All I remember is how much trouble I caused a lotta people...
I can see shit like my immaturity and ego in the game.
... After 15 years,
Don't worry about it, buddy.
ポン PAT

WHAAAAT...
I can't make the deadline with this much to draw.
Ya oughta say that way earlier...
"Or how I'd make the graphic artists cry.

'Cos your stupid explanations suck ass.
Why don't ya get it?!
"Like how in project meetings, I'd explain stuff over and over until we'd end up in a fight.


"so I flipped my lid."
SNAP
"But the dev rejected it after I talked ta him,
It's not impossible, but we don't have the time.
Battle!!
THE SYSTEM SWITCHES TO THE BATTLE SCREEN AS YOU GET THE ENCOUNTER WARNING ON THE FIELD.
"Or how rather than a random encounter,
AN ICON APPEARS WHEN YOU GET IN CONTACT WITH AN ENEMY ON THE FIELD AND THE SYSTEM SWITCHES TO BATTLE.
"I wanted ta do a symbol encounter.

The content in the finished game was far from ideal...

Countless compromises.

Only half of the specs I wanted were put in.

My motivation was flying high, but I was runnin' around in circles.

GRAN SPIRAL

G-Spa made me realize that fundamental fact.

Ya hafta choose what can be done.

Games don't get made by one person.

Time and manpower are limited resources.

わき flex

わき flex

I look forward to it!

... That's why this remake's gonna be packed with the specs rejected due ta lack of capacity!

Nobu-san went through so many hardships to make a game that I merely thought of as "fun".

They're so thoroughly player-oriented that there are some problem areas I ain't ever realized.

tok ポス

Some people cherish the original, so let's put in the good stuff. Yer ideas.

omg

...Um. Pardon me for saying this after hearing about your hardships, Nobu-san, but...

Yes...

That's the stuff creators wanna know, right?

To make it playable.

I'm really only taking into account the playing aspect so...

roll ぐる

roll ぐる

Umm but,

roll ぐる

...Ya may not be good at making a 1 from a 0,

but ya may just be good at turning a 1 into a 10.

カタタ ktk tk

カタ tk

カタ tk

...I see.

カタ tk

カタタタ tk tk tk

ROPOSAL

Actually,

I do have a concern about G-Spa...

fwaaah ふわああ

?

had a lot of improvements

and "parent elements" from the original.

The remake specs that Nobu-san was working on

ぱあ SHINE

FWAH!

It fits the remake. Let's see if we can come up with more ideas.

タン tap

...MUST have a link to his recollections from the Planet Memories!

This started out as the original version, but the gradual spec changes...

We'll restock support items at the inn, then go on our way.

WAN!

Okay!

Ankoro!

WAN!

That's it!

It's inconclusive that he's dead!

Huggies!

And Grandpa even encouraged me in my dream!

Hn!

I'm not giving up hope.

The last memory should have all the answers!

Finally. The last dungeon...

THE FORBIDDEN LAND!

Since it's the last dungeon, you can't reach it through ordinary means.
But by adding a mod to the evolved buddy,
you can make "long-range flight" possible.
FWOOM
...In other words...
FWOOM
FWOOM
"The Forbidden Land"
HERE
is the southernmost continent last to appear on the world map.
Originally a phantom continent,
its existence is revealed upon completing the story events.

FWOOM

...THIS is what happens.

uh— uh— uh— I'h... hood...!

WOHFF!

...Oi, Ankoro...

Ya good...?

FWOOM

FWOOM

Kinda distressing 'cause it's like Buddy Cruelty...

... Guess it'd be like this when ya go for realism ...

so I never thought much of it.

FWOOM

...We had ta simplify how the buddy travels on the game screen,

ONLY THE BUDDY'S MODEL IS DISPLAYED WHILE MID-FLIGHT.

FLAP

FLAP

FLAP

I han hu his!

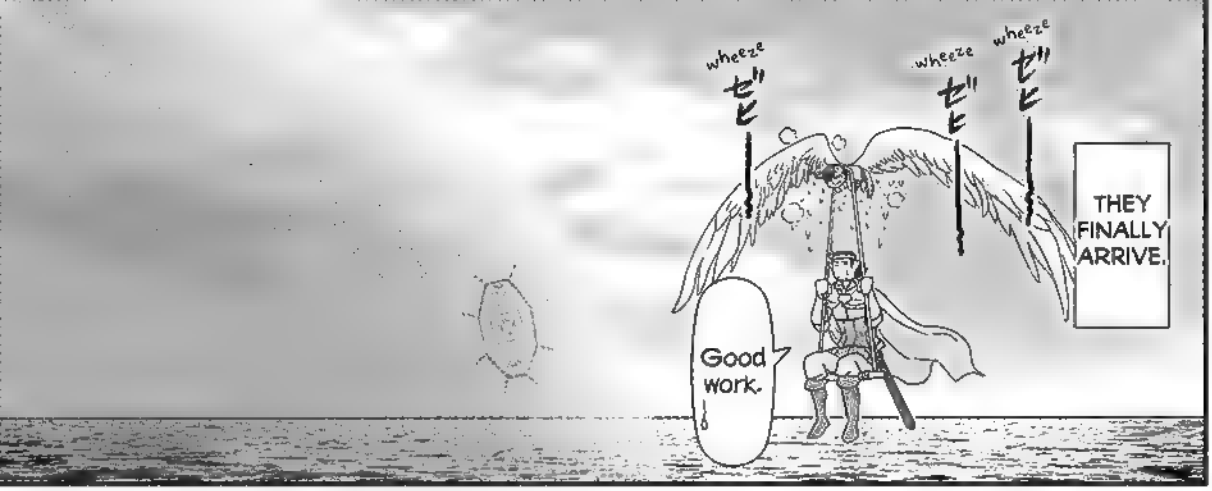
YELP

Sorry, Ankoro...

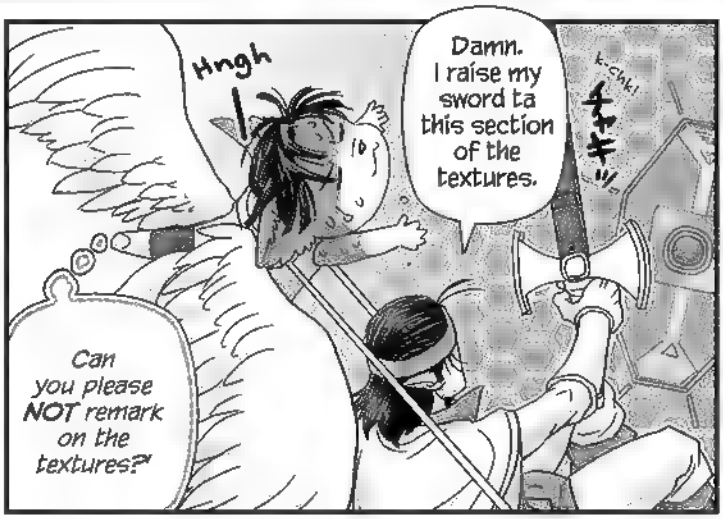
I wouldn't feel this much discomfort if it were the attack or the defense spec, ya know.

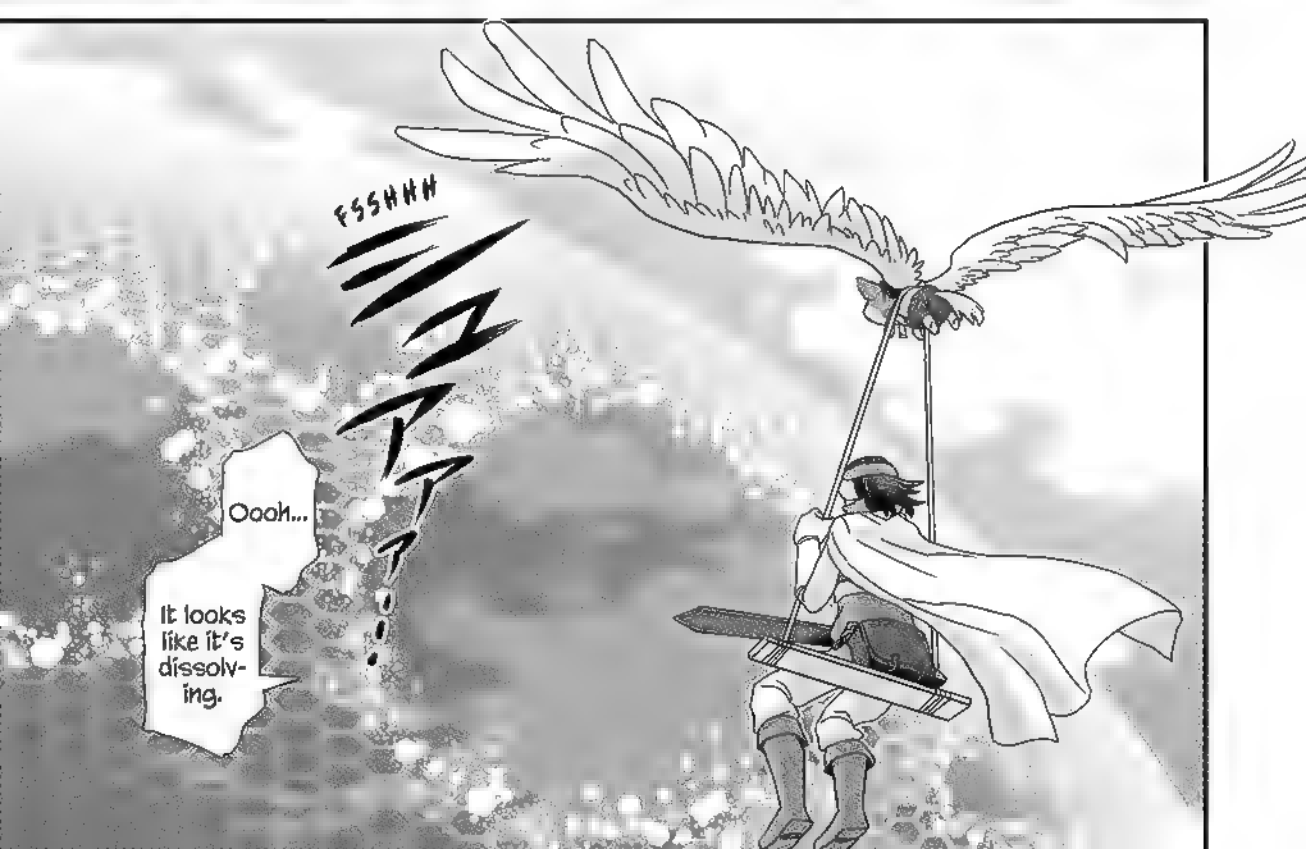
ATTACK SPECIALIZATION

DEFENSE SPECIALIZATION


wheeze
wheeze
wheeze
THEY FINALLY ARRIVE.
Good work.

Master is authorized for passage.
Lowering the shields.


Hngh
Damn. I raise my sword ta this section of the textures.
k-chk!
Can you please NOT remark on the textures?

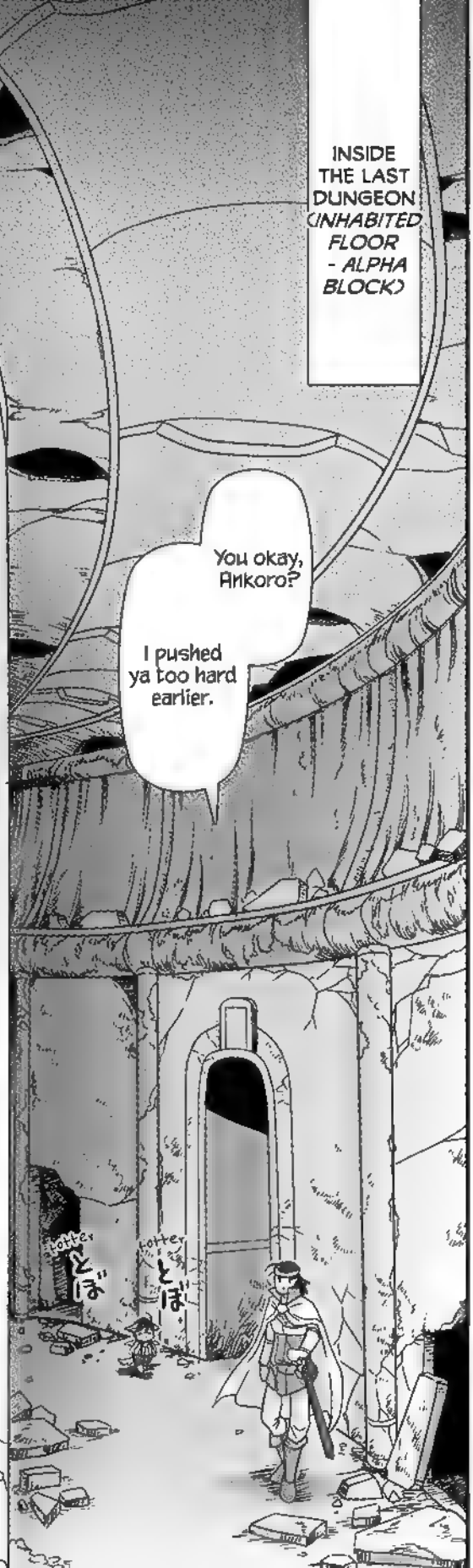

FSSHHH
Oooh...
It looks like it's dissolving.

Damn, what a view...
But,
other than Nobu-san being dead or alive...!
The G-Spa remake is my dream...
When we get back, it'll become reality...!
Maybe with today's technology, we can do the things we couldn't do back then.
Should I go for a remake when we get outta here?
...there's one more thing about this game that worries me.
FLAP
FLAP
Alright. We're almost there, Ankoro!
You can do it!

Ride on my shoulder if yer tired.
After all that hard work.
Oh! That.
I'm not sulking, just...
キャウン
キャウン
arf
arf

whine
キュ
We've come so far,
but I'm so scared to find out the truth.
And I don't want to push forward at all...

LOOM
The enemies here are a pain in the ass,
so we need ta get goin' without doing any side trips.
Ooh. I can't resist a good hug.


INSIDE THE LAST DUNGEON (INHABITED FLOOR - ALPHA BLOCK)
You okay, Ankoro?
I pushed ya too hard earlier.
Lotter
とぼ
Lotter
とぼ

STRIKE
UWAH!!
!
SKUFF
WHOOSH
We...
We got AMBUSHED ?!
yarf!
キャワン
Nobu-san!!
CREAK
CREAK
Oi. Hang on.
This field...
It TURNED into a SYMBOL ENCOUNTER ?!
creak
creak
creak
creak

For me,
seamless combat from a symbol encounter
It expands the range of the battle, too.
is visually apparent and natural.
This is also a change for the remake...
It's the encounter spec he was planning to change...
Oh, shit!
This fucker calls backup at fixed time intervals!
SHOM
Ankoro!
Buy me some time with a Blind Round!
BEEP!
BEEP!
BEEP!
WAN!
Okay!
I'll CRUSH it right away!

メラァ…
crackle
...DAMN THAT WAS FUN!
Uwaah. His ignition switch got turned on.

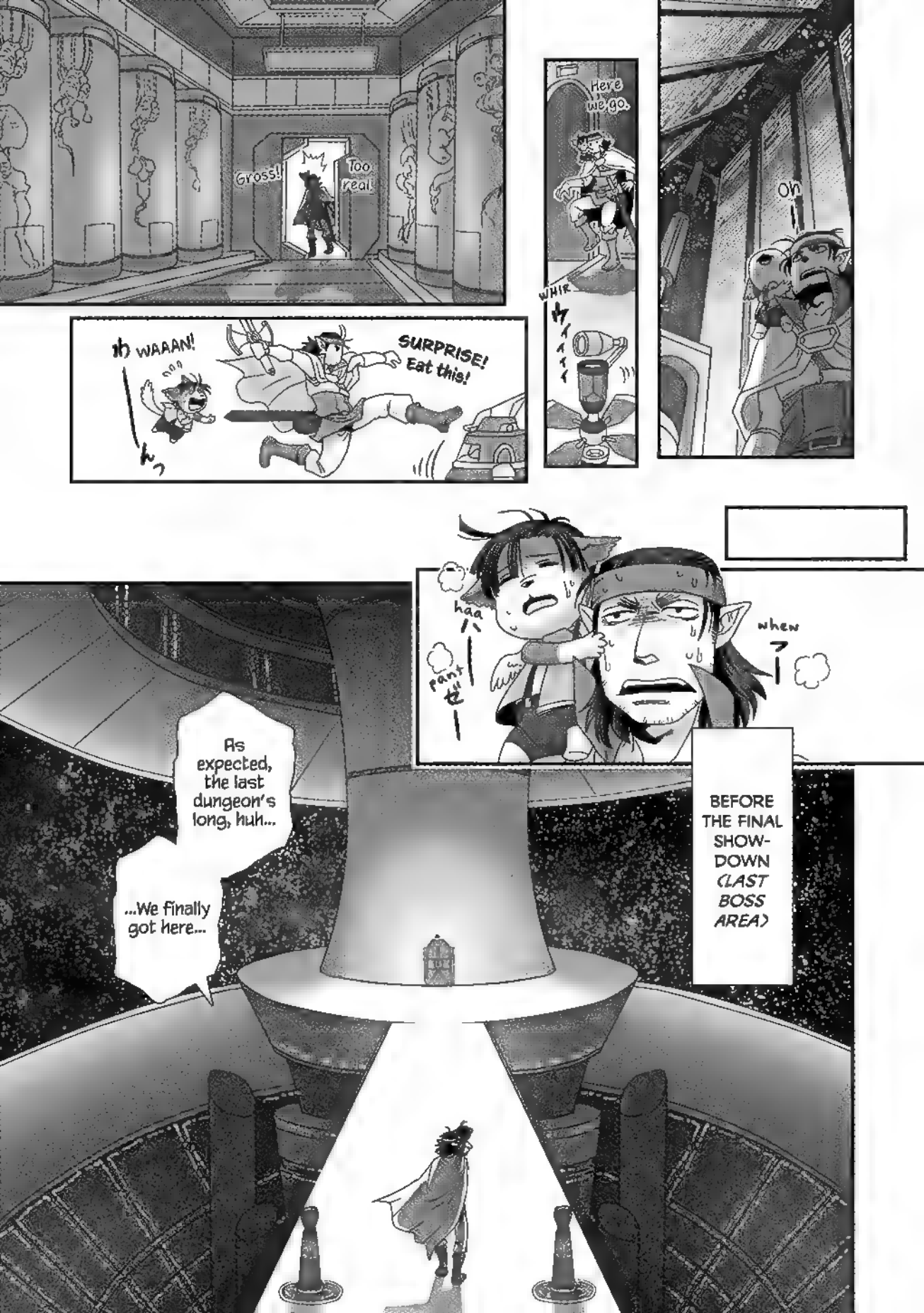
!? haa
!? haa
Shit ...!
3 rounds in a row all of a sudden is tough.
!? haa
シュー shuu
RECOVERY ↑ SPRAY

I wanna play some more,
but I wanna wrap it up and return ta the real world before I forget the specs.
g-shn
ガシャン
ガシャン
g-shn
キキ!!
creak
I knew it! It's more natural ta see the enemies on the field.

Every time Nobu-san regains his past memories,
this world's features change to the new one.
But, he hasn't recovered his memory about the new specs yet.

In other words,
we're suddenly burdened with the handicaps from the new specs.
So far, it's been enhancements to the efficiency of items and travel time,
but now the battle system has started to change.
I have to tell him about them!
ZOOM
Ah-- HEY!
AN-KORO!
Leave it to me!
ARF!
WHIIIR
What's with this weak point ain't showin' up after I searched!
!
ER-ER!
No Search
ATTACKS FIRST!
PING
weak point
An enemy's unknown weak point
can be revealed when your buddy, who is also a mechanical beast,
SLAM
Shield

※ BUFF... THE GENERIC NAME TO INCREASE THE CHARACTER'S ABILITIES AT A FIXED DURATION, LIKE SKILLS AND MAGIC.


Gross!
Too real.
Here we go.
WHIR
Oh
WAAAN!
SURPRISE! Eat this!
haa
pant
whew
BEFORE THE FINAL SHOW-DOWN (LAST BOSS AREA)
As expected, the last dungeon's long, huh...
...We finally got here...

Nobu-san with a last boss vibe...

...Well, I wonder what the last boss will look like.
Actually, he's originally the hero,
I'll save real quick.
vwom
so I guess he'll look like me.

Uwaaa
OH MY GOD! THAT IS SO BADASS!
FOR THE SAKE OF THE GAME
WILL DESTROY THE WORLD
shiver
shiver
FALL INTO DARKNESS SYSTEM

Oh, man.
So this game's comin' to an end...?
He looks really bummed out...

Ah! That's right. Sorry.
I'll beat him, though.
Must be hard ta fight when ya got the same face.

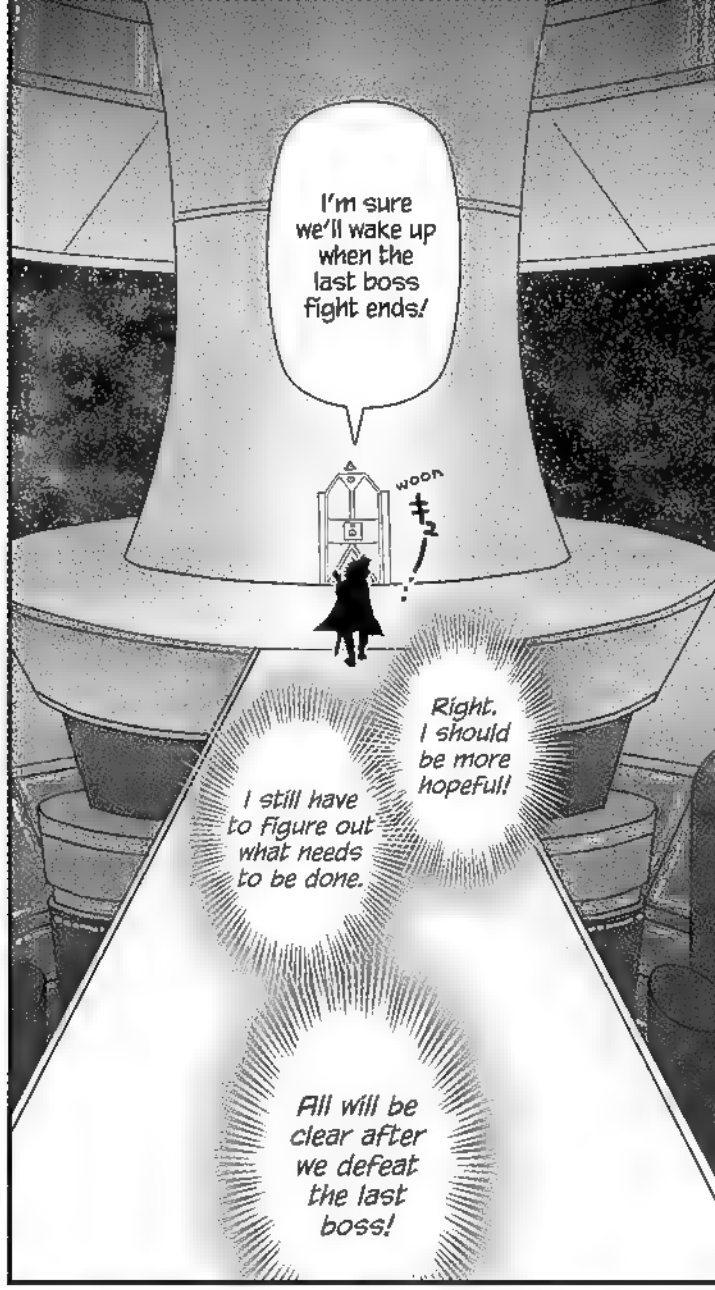
...Hang on. Is there a chance it ain't gonna end?
SURPRISED
ぎくり
'Cause, "Gran Spiral" has a looped ending.
After the last boss fight, the planet's time rewinds through an unskippable cutscene.
And you start the adventure all over again!
Yeah... I realized this, too.
Gran Spiral is a game with no end...

Sorry. I'm joking.
We came all this way ta get ya back ASAP, didn't we?
pat
oh
I'll be with ya until we actually clear the game.

What's more, the player gets the New Game Plus option.
I don't know if we can get out of the game even if we beat the last boss.

...Oi, Ankoro.
Ankoro ?
キュウ...
woon

Master verified. Entry is authorized.
PI PI PI!
PIPOPO


I'm sure we'll wake up when the last boss fight ends!
WOON
Right. I should be more hopeful!
I still have to figure out what needs to be done.
All will be clear after we defeat the last boss!

SHUU
Well, then. It's finally the last boss fight.
Let's do this and give it our... all...?

...Wha—!
—What the heck is this?

How...
How can this place
Even though we set up a spacious interior so the spaceship would be easy ta fight in...
SHELL-
be filled with a SHIT-TON O' SWORDS ...?
SHACK

FLASH!
Welcome back,
「ME」

LET THE FINAL BATTLE BEGIN
I...
I'M THE LAST BOSS ?!
WHAT IS THIS
...Huh? Who ?

The Honest Life of a Game Studio Chapter 21

ゲーム屋BL(下)

higefusa

oyajidesu : Translation/Lettering/Cleaning
bù dīng: Quality Check

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